Cancellation order dated 27.9.1995 on the following grounds:—

(i) that VSP availed credit of MODVAT on the inputs used in the manufacture of the products which were exported under the said licences; and

(ii) that VSP did not maintain the account of consumption and utilisation of goods imported against these licences.

RINL has filed an appeal before the Appeliate Committee in the Ministry of Commerce against the cancellation orders of the Additional DGFT and the entire matter is subjudice.

(c) Allotment of wheat and rice for Public Distribution System/Revamped Public Distribution System to State/Union Territories are made on a month to month basis based on the demands received from various States/UTs, their relative needs, off-take trend, stocks in the Central Pool, seasonal availability etc. These allotments from Central Pool are only supplementary to the open market availability.

(f) In view of the comfortable stock position of foodgrains in the Central Pool, Government had authorised the Food Corporation of India to export/sell for the purposes of export upto 30 lakh tonnes of fine and superfine variety of rice and 25 lakh tonnes of non-durum wheat during 1995-96.

The FCI has further been authorised to export/sell for the purposes of export upto 5.0 lakh tonnes of non-durum wheat against carry-over commitment of 1995-96 and upto 5.0 lakh tonnes of fine and superfine variety of rice, including the carrry-over commitment of 1995-96, from publice stocks during 1996-97.

Sale of vabal in Visakhapatanam steel plant

2195. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether any report of mis appropriation with respect to the sale of VABAL in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant has come to notice of Government; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (Visakhapatnam Steel Plant) during the year 1992-93 and 1993-94 obtained, uner the provisions of EXIM Policy, advance import licences having a total CIF value of Rs. 477.86 crores. Since import requirement of VSP were limited, it decided to sell the surplus licences in the market as permissible under the EXIM policy. Accordingly, based on overall highest bidding, all the 10 licences were sold to a single party at a premium of 9.2% of the CIF value in February, 1994.

In February, 1995, on receipt of complaints from Department of Revenue about irregularities in the issue of advance licences to RINL and their transfer to M/s. Roopali Agencies (Pvt.) Limited, a preliminary enquiry was immediately conducted by Ministry of Steel and based on the findings of this enquiry, the Executive Director (Vigilance), RINL was directed to conduct a detailed investigation and submit his report by 31.3.1995. On receipt of the report from ED (Vigilance), RINL, the matter was considered in the Ministry and the Management was ad-

Re-structuring of PDS

2196. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the restructuring of PDS and subsidies cost of foodgrains to be made available at these centres at 50% price to the "Poor living below poverty line" (PLBPL) will raise food subsidy to about Rs. 10 crores as

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against budget estimates of about Rs.5884 crores in 1996-97;

(b) whether it has also been decided to "remove" non-poor from PDS system as also to increase the cost of foodgrains for them at PDS; and

(c) if so, the rationale justification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c) The proposals to streamline Public Distribution System (PDS) with focus on poor is under consideration in consultation with States/UTs and details are yet to be worked out.

Allotment of Wheat and Rice at Lower Rate than Central Issue Price

2197. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether wheat and rice is allotted at rates lower than the Central issue price by the Food Corporation of India to those hostels in the country where more than two thirds of resident students belong to SC/ST and OBC category;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of such hostels in Maharashtra presently being allotted wheat and rice at lower rates with district and hostel-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To ensure adequate standards of Nutrition in Institutions meant for the Welfare and Development of Weaker Sections, the Govt. launched a PERMANENT scheme in October, 94 under which foodgrains (rice & wheat) are issued to SC/ST/OBC Hostels throughout the country at Revamped Public Distribution System rates which are Rs.500 per MT lower than the Central Issue Prices for Public Distribution System. Only such hostels which have atleast 2/3rd of the total number of inmates belonging to SC/ST/OBC categories, are eligible to receive concessional foodgrains under this scheme. The scale of issue of rice and wheat (in any proportion taking into account the food habits in different areas) will be as per nutritional requirements of residents subject to a maximum of 15 kg/month/resident. The periodicity of supply to the hostels will be atleast once a month; the hostels having the option of lifting foodgrains from the PDS outlets; or directly from FCI godowns; or from Civil Supplies Corporation godowns. As per assessment made by the Ministry of Welfare the total annual requirements of foodgrains for the scheme would be 2.45 lakh M.T. p.a.

(c) As per latest information, furnished by Govt. of Maharashtra, subsidised foodgrains are being supplied to 3171 hostels in the State. District-wise and Hostel-wise details of the beneficiary hostels are not maintained by the Central Government.

Accidents in Coal Mines

2198. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coal mines in which fire is continuing, State-wise;

(b) the number of mine workers died in underground mines because of fire or water logging or accident during last five years, year-wise;

(c) the details of special safety measures Government have taken; and

(d) whether there is any collective insurance taken by Government for mine workers, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Fire exists in 74 coal mines of Coal India Limited (CIL).